

Dr. John Sheffield, Chair
Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
Energy Technology Programs
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Bethel Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

John Sheffield:

In its final report of August 1999, the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's (SEAB) Task Force on Fusion Energy stated that "Given the complex nature of the fusion effort, an integrated program planning process is an absolute necessity." In response to that recommendation, this office charged the Integrated Program Planning Activity Working Group, chaired by Dr. Charles Baker of the University of California at San Diego, to prepare an integrated program plan for fusion research. For the past several months, this group has been working in close cooperation with all of the elements of the fusion research community and with a community-wide Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. John Lindl of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, to prepare the draft plan.

The first section of the plan, the strategic framework, is being prepared by the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences. The second section of the plan, Goals and Objectives, and the third section, Implementation, are being drafted by the working group.

In preparing this draft plan, the working group is making extensive use of two reports prepared by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), "Opportunities in the Fusion Energy Sciences Program", dated June 1999, and "Priorities and Balance within the Fusion Energy Sciences Program", dated September 1999. This latter report was prepared in light of not only the "Opportunities" report, but also the results of the aforementioned review by the SEAB Task Force, the interim report of the National Research Council's Fusion Science Assessment Committee, and the outcome of the fusion community's July 1999 Fusion Summer Study.

I would like the FESAC to review the draft "Integrated Program Plan for Fusion Energy Sciences", and provide its comments and recommendations to me no later than mid-November. We will use your recommendations in finalizing the document so that it will be available for our anticipated dealings with the new Administration's transition team and in the FY 2002 budget process. You will receive the draft report directly from Dr. Baker when it is completed, and a briefing on the plan will be on the agenda of the July 18-19, 2000, FESAC meeting in San Diego.

Sincerely,

James F. Decker
Acting Director
Office of Science

Approved: _____ // Signed // _____

Disapproved: _____

Date: _____ May 24, 2000 _____

cc:
C. Baker, UCSD